

Appl. No. 10/800,914
Amdt. dated May 3, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 3, 2004

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 13 and 14 are amended and new claims 17-20 are added.

The Examiner's allowance of claims 1-12 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,640,564 to Hill. The applicant respectfully asserts that claims 13-16, as presently recited, are not anticipated by Hill.

With respect to independent claim 13, Hill does not disclose a cover for a socket of an electrical outlet having locking means integral with a door and movable between a locking position substantially preventing shifting of the door from a blocking position to the open position and an unlocking position permitting shifting of the door from the blocking position to an open position, as recited in claim 13. Instead, Hill discloses the use of a complex, multi-part locking assembly which includes an interlocking sliding member 64 and spring 70. Neither the spring nor the interlocking sliding member of Hill are integral with the shutter 46 of Hill.

With respect to independent claim 14, and claims 15-18 dependent therefrom, Hill does not disclose a translation element accessible via an opening separate from the opening positioned to be alignable with the socket of the electrical outlet, as recited in claim 14. Instead, Hill discloses a finger tab 54 for the shutter 46 that is positioned within the same aperture 20 as the shutter. Thus, in order to move the shutter of Hill to the open position, a user is to use the finger tab, thereby placing the user's finger proximate the aperture and any electrical outlet therebehind. In contrast, the translation element of the cover of claim 14 is positioned to be accessible via an opening separate from the opening positioned to be alignable with a socket, thereby not requiring the user's finger to be proximate any electrical outlet aligned with the opening.

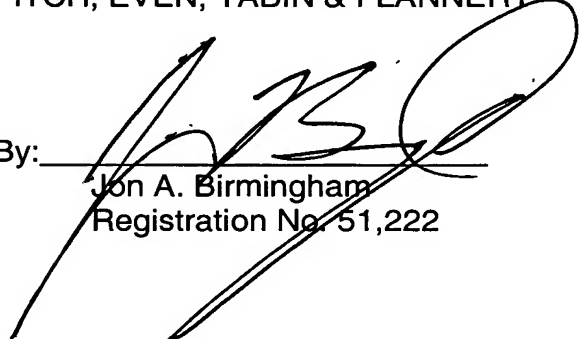
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For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By: _____


Jon A. Birmingham
Registration No. 51,222

Dated May 3, 2005
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Telephone: (312) 577-7000
Facsimile: (312) 577-7007
411634